

Message Text

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EUR - MR. LAINGEN

S/S - RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 156799

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, US, TU

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS' ATHENS INTERVIEW

REF: (A) NICOSIA 2077; (B) ATHENS 4873

1. UNDER SECRETARY SISCO CALLED CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU TO BRING THE ALLEGED MAKARIOS INTERVIEW WITH AKROPOLIS TO HIS ATTENTION. THE UNDER SECRETARY READ PERTINENT PASSAGES TO DIMITRIOU (REF B) AND STATED THAT, IF AKROPOLIS ARTICLE ACCURATE, IT WOULD BE OF DEEP CONCERN TO USG AND CONSIDERED AS A MOST INAPPROPRIATE INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL U.S. MATTERS. DIMITRIOU REPLIED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE MATTER. THE UNDER SECRETARY ASKED DIMITRIOU TO REPORT IT TO THE GOC AND THAT A PROMPT EXPLANATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

2. LATER IN THE DAY, THE CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR CALLED THE UNDER SEC. TO SAY THAT HE HAD JUST SPOKEN TO THE ARCHBISHOP.

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MAKARIOS WANTED THE SECRETARY TO KNOW THAT HE GAVE NO SUCH

INTERVIEW. HOWEVER, HE DOES HAVE A PROBABLE EXPLANATION AS TO WHY SUCH A STORY HAS APPEARED. ARCHBISHOP'S EXPLANATION IS THAT HE WAS MEETING WITH A GROUP OF GREEK-AMERICANS AND THAT AMONG THIS GROUP WAS THE REPORTER WHO WROTE THE

ARTICLE. HE SAYS THAT CERTAIN OF THE VIEWS REFLECTED IN THE ARTICLE WERE THOSE EXPRESSED BY SOME GREEK-AMERICANS IN THE GROUP AND THAT THE REPORTER ERRONEOUSLY HAS PUT THOSE VIEWS AS COMING FROM THE ARCHBISHOP'S MOUTH. MAKARIOS CONVEYED HIS REGRETS OVER THE MATTER AND WANTED TO ASSURE THE SECRETARY THAT THESE ARE NOT HIS VIEWS. THE CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR SAID THAT MAKARIOS INTENDS TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD.

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